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STALLED SHELTER PROJECT GAINS NEW LIFE WITH LOCAL SUPPORT

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Donates \$500,000 towards Project

San Bernardino, Calif. – May 12, 2009- Construction was underway of the building of Veronica's Home of Mercy II in San Bernardino, an 80 Bed – 15,000 square foot women and children's shelter, when the downturn in the global economy took its toll.

"Every where you turn people are having to cut back, and unfortunately that includes charitable giving" stated Fr. Mike Barry – President of Mary's Mercy Center "Our new shelter was moving along nicely when we saw donations shrink and disappear all together, and with that a stall in our construction schedule."

Mary's Mercy Center together with San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is proud to announce the donation of \$500,000 from San Manuel towards the construction of Veronica's Home of Mercy II.

“This very generous donation will put our project back on track towards completion in the next 120 days” stated Fr. Barry.

“The economy has dealt our Veronica’s Home ministry a one two punch so to speak. First our expansion was stalled, and secondly the demand for our services has increased as people lose their jobs and homes. We are forced to turn away women and children every day due to lack of space” stated Fr. Barry “This donation is a tremendous boost to Veronica’s Home, we can now move forward with construction which when completed will provide 80 additional beds to help serve the needs of the San Bernardino area.”

Veronica’s Home of Mercy I currently provides 40 beds for women and their children as well as education and counseling to transition families into self sufficiency. Programs such as GED preparation, drug and alcohol rehab and child development education emphasize growth and wellness for both the mothers and their young children.

“The people of The San Manuel Tribal Government are happy to provide this support to help make sure that there is a place in our Community for mothers, when they have nowhere else to go,” said San Manuel Chairman James Ramos.

“With funding coming together we can now move forward towards a late summer completion of the project.” stated Terry Kent – VP of Crestwood Communities, volunteer construction management team.

The original Veronica’s Home of Mercy I opened in 1995. Both shelters are a part of Mary’s Mercy Center, a nonprofit home for women and their children who find themselves temporarily homeless. In that time Veronica’s Home of mercy has seen 500 women and 1300 children go through the program. “Our successes have been many that is for sure, however we daily turn away women and children due to lack of space” state Fr. Barry.

Since 2002, Mary’s Mercy Center has been raising funds for Veronica’s Home of Mercy II. In addition to HomeAid Inland Empire and Crestwood Communities, contributors to the expansion include the City of San Bernardino, First 5 San Bernardino, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Weingard Foundation and private donors.

The community is invited to join Mary's Mercy Center and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for a donation presentation by San Manuel Chairman James Ramos to Veronica's Home Of Mercy on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 9:00am at Veronica's Home of Mercy, 1495 West Victoria St., San Bernardino, CA 92411. Tours of the building will be given to all in attendance.

ABOUT MARY'S MERCY CENTER AND VERONICA'S HOME OF MERCY

To learn more about Mary's Mercy Center and Veronica's Home of Mercy, log on to www.marysmercycenter.org or call (909) 889-2558.

ABOUT THE SAN MANUEL BAND OF SERRANO MISSION INDIANS

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Despite challenges and hardships, the San Manuel tribal community has continued to progressively maintain and enhance its unique form of governance - focusing all efforts on providing a better quality of life for its citizens. Through economic diversification, both on and off the reservation, the tribe has been forward thinking in its efforts to build infrastructure, maintain civil services and promote social, economic, educational and cultural development. Today, the San Manuel tribal government has created essential governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment and continues to pursue opportunities for future generations.

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